

T H E
E M B A S S A D O U R 812
O F
P E A C E ,

Being a Strange and Wonderful Relation of a

WHITE DOVE Seated on a *Rain-Bow*.

That Appears to several Persons, in the Parish of *Peter's Carlile* ; Particularly to Mrs. *Isabel Fletcher*, (Wife to Mr. *Fletcher*, Apothecary.) To whom it Relates Strange and Wonderful Things, concerning the state of Affairs in this Nation ; very positively asserting *Universal Peace* and *Plenty* to all Christendom, the ensuing Year 1697. Proving the *Subversion* of the *French King*, from several Texts of Scripture ; especially from the last Verse of the 31st Psalm.

To which is Added,

Disputes with several Ministers ; as also its pious *Prayers* and *Exhortations* to all the People that dayly far and near flock to see it.

The Truth of all which, is Confirm'd by the Testimony of Two Letters, the one sent to the Reverend Dr. *Simpson*, and the other Write by the Worshipful Justice *Patrickson*.

Tydings of Joy, Peace, and Plenty, &c.

THE following Relation, I am going to make, is a Subject of such Marvellous and Supernatural Astonishment, that I dare not pretend to fathom it, by the Line and Plummet of Humane Reason.

The Works of GOD are unsearchable, and past Man's finding out. It is beyond all contradiction, that the Infinite Being has opened the Mouth of Dumb Irrational Creatures, Birds and Beasts, and by them check'd the incorrigibleness of wicked Men ; the Example of Balaam's Ass manifests One ; and, to go no further, our Modern Speaking Raven (a Miracle yet fresh in our Memories) confirms the other. I must confess, the ensuing Narrative, infinitely creates a much greater Admiration ; First, As its Appearance is in the likeness of a Dove, at once Representative (if I may so say) of the Holy Ghost : Secondly, As it was seated on a Rainbow, That Token of the Covenant between GOD and Man, That the Waters should no more become a Flood to destroy all Flesh.

History informs us of the Delusion of Mahomet's Pidgeon, which indeed only whisper'd him in the Ear ; but this Dove, am now speaking of, talks frequently, Holely, Audibly, and Publickly. I cite this, not to persuade any to ascribe divinity to this present Prodigy ; For why may not the Grand Deceiver of Mankind, (that Prince of the Air, whose Power and Policy is great) impose such a *pia fraud*, that under the guise of harmless Innocence, he may more securely devour : False Christs, and false Prophets (saith the Holy Evangelist) shall arise, and shall shew Wonders to seduce, if it were possible, even the Elect. Therefore I heartily recommend to my Read-

ers that Excellent Advice of the Apostle, *Try the Spirit, whether it be of GOD or not*. And this brings me to my premised Narrative, which (for the avoiding any Mistakes) I set down in the very Words of the Reverend Divine himself.

Mr. Knowl's (Minister of St. Peters Carlile) Letter to the Reverend Doctor Simpson.

Reverend Sir,

THE intimate Love and Friendship, contracted from our Infancy, and hitherto continued, by an uninterrupted Correspondence ; together with the prying Curiosity (I have ever observed in you) into things supernatural, obliged me to send you this Strange Prodigy the manner whereof take as follows ;

On Friday the 23d. of October last, a little after Sun setting the wife of John Fletcher an Apothecary in St. Peter's Carlile, a woman of good & pious disposition ; being set in her chamber in a Melancholy thinking posture, with her Child in her Arms ; felt on a sudden and unusual Warmness about her Head, and, immediately after discern'd the likeness of a White-Dove, as it were upon a Rain-bow : whereupon she presently fell down into a Trance : But, at last, recovering her self, she heard these Words uttered by it, in a shrill and powerful Sound

Isabel! be not afraid, for I am a Messenger sent from GOD, to proclaim Glad-tidings to all England: yea, even to all those that sincerely Love our LORD JESUS CHRIST; And so, bidding her attend in the same place next Evening, it for that time disappeared.

The Astonished Woman acquainted her Husband with what had happened: whereupon he with several others attended with her the Hour appointed; to whom the Dove or Spirit appear'd, as aforesaid; Exhorting them to Prayer, Piety, and Repentance; as that GOD was angry; that his Vials of VVrath were ready prepared to be poured out on all the Children of Disobedience; that Rome had drunk deep of the Blood of the Martyrs: and therefore must drink deep of the Cup of GOD'S VVrath; That Peace and Plenty should environ all Christendom; and that the present disturber of the Well-fare thereof, shall in the year Ninety and Seven, be Cut off from among the Children of Men: Moreover it added, that the Kingdom of CHRIST should shortly be Established throughout the whole VVorld: and that of Satan's totally Subverted and broken into Confusion. It encouraged them, out of several portions of the Holy Scriptures, to persevere in a Godly-Life to the End, and then they should be Saved; and so, with a Prayer to GOD, for his blessing on them, dismiss'd them for that time.

It dayly appears to the Woman, and speaks very comfortable sayings to her; And as it was once repeating of *The thirty first Psalm*, it said, *Now comes the Minister, let him tell thee what the meaning of this psalm is;* which suitably did agree with my coming into the House. But I not answering its expectation, it began to expound the whole *Psalm* in general; particularly applying the 24th verse to the English Nation: The words are these, *Be ye of good Courage, And he shall strengthen your hearts, all ye that hope in the Lord.* After this it began largely to expostulate with the Woman, and to enjoin her several duties, whereupon I desired her to consider, that it was not a good and true Spirit, that she should refuse to pray at his Command: For that, under such holy Representations it might seduce Her and others from the Word of God and his Grace: That we had *Moses* and the *Prophets*, whom we should and must hear: That God had not set Spirits before us to be our Instructors: But that the Soul was in greatest Danger when the Devil under the pretext of Innocency, appears to us: These Arguments and a great many more I urged to her, admonishing her and others, both in private and publick, to give no credence to it: But to arm themselves with unfeigned Prayers, and firm Faith in Christ Jesus against the Devil, and all his Adherents. But the Dove like Spirit opposed my Sayings, telling them, *That it was not a damned Spirit, but a Messenger sent from God.*

It is so commonly seen, that it is known to every Body in the Neighbour-hood, and appears frequently in the day time: And when Three, Four, or more are present it never fails to speak with a clear and audible Voice.

On Sunday the 25th of October last, as the Woman was going

into the Cellar, She bid the Boy go with her, for S afraid, the Spirit answered, *O ye of little Faith! Why Fearsfull?*

It shews its self also in the Neighbours Houses, exhorting to Repentance. At a certain time, being present with others, I conjured it by the *Holy Trinity*, to tell me what was, and wherefore it came: It presently replied, in the same manner as a fore, *A Messenger from God, sent for the conversion of Sinners.* And so for that time vanished.

Here is such a Numerous Concourse of People, that Town cannot contain them, and if we should Counten them, I am apt to think, they would set it up as an Idle Oracle, for as much as several repair hither to ask Count doubtful Matters.

I would desire your opinion, whether you think it may be the Effect of a Good Angel; Or whether it may be a Phan or Delusion of Satan, permitted as a Tryal of our Faith, cause we hear not *Moses* and the *Prophets*: I will say no more, only desire your Answer by the next, and in the mean time subscribe my self,

Your obsequious Servant,
Edw. Knowls.

Altho' this single Testimony, under the hands of such reverend Persons, is sufficient to evince the truth of this wonderful Apparition: Yet to remove all Scruples, we have hereunto adjoyned another Letter, sent by a VVorshipfull Justice of Peace to Mr. S---ly, near the Royal Exchange, his intimate Friend and Correspondent.

Sir,

I Cannot omit this Opportunity of Acquainting you with a VVonderfull Apparition, that is here amongst us, to the exceeding Amazement of thousands of People, viz, A White Dove, seated on a Rain Bow, that daily appears to Mrs. Fletcher, an Eminent Apothecary's VVife. It talks with her very much out of the Scriptures, applying especially these Places, *The Seed of the Woman shall bruise the Serpents Head. The Blood of Jesus, &c.*

It has openly declared, that unless they speedily repented, God would bring great Calamities upon them: For that *the Ax is laid to the Root of the Tree.* It foretells the total Subversion of the Ottoman Empire in a very small space of time: And a signal Victory over the French in 97. And that Peace and Tranquillity will thereupon ensue. It also speaks of the Affairs between France and the Duke of Savoy.

It delivers its Answers after a mysterious and ambiguous manner, as did the Oracles of old. The common People take it to be an Angel sent from God, but a Bishop and other of the Clergy hold it for a Devil. As for me I shall forbear to pass my Judgement, till it appear what Manner of a Spirit it is.

Yours,
HEN. PATRICKSON.

POSTSCRIPT.

YOU shall not fail of having exact notice of all ensuing Material Passages relating to this wonderful Prodigy, for it is so far from any likelihood of Ceasing, that it dayly appears, every day more visible than other, freely answering all Questions whatsoever.

Several Atheists flock thither, and are fully convinced of the Power of an Almighty Being: And several eminent Persons have employed their utmost Skill and Learning to find out whether it might proceed from some Natural Cause, or not? but all in vain. So that all in general conclude, that it is no less than the Finger of GOD.

Licenced according to Order.

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